

*Stated Meeting, May 14, 1844.*

VICE PRESIDENT MORTON in the Chair.

Two letters were read from Mr. I. G. Strain, U. S. Navy, Correspondent of the Academy, (now on an exploring tour through the interior of South America,) addressed to Mr. Phillips and Dr. Morton, dated City of St. Paul's, Brazil, February 26th, 1844 ; of which the following is an abstract:

The party had been reduced to three, Mr. Strain, Dr. Reinhart, and Mr. Christie, the others having left them from sickness and other causes. After having reached the head of navigation on the river Tiete, it was ascertained that the unhealthiness of the country through which they would pass in descending that river, was such as to threaten the lives of the party ; the natives positively refusing to accompany them in the descent, and, without some assistance, the canoes could not be dragged over the portages. In consequence of this, the route was changed, and preparations made to descend the Parana-Panema, which has remained unexplored. A covered boat, twenty-two feet long and four feet beam, was built by the party, and every preparation made to commence the descent of the river in a few days. Dr. Reinhart had made numerous collections in various departments of natural science, although he was principal constructor of their little boat, which was so constructed as to be taken to pieces should it be required. Mr. Strain had made two journeys to distant cities, to complete arrangements for his expedition with the officers of the government, and had at length returned, found all ready, and the little party was on the eve of starting, in excellent health and spirits, and full of hope and confidence.

A letter was read from Mr. James Ombrosi, U. S. Consul at Florence, Italy, dated February, 1844, acknowledging the reception of his diploma, and announcing his intention of procuring for the Academy, and forwarding by the earliest opportunity, certain publications of learned Italian Societies.